

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 EUR-12
/078 W

-----015508 141713Z /43

O R 141100Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4471
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBABANE 1276

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, SHUM, WZ
SUBJECT: PAC EXPLUSION FROM SWAZILAND

REF: MBABANE 1204, 1269, 1270

1. EMBOFF HAD TWO HOUR DISCUSSION WITH P.M. SHABANGU, PRIVATE
SEC TO THE PRIMIN. CONCERNING THE SITUATION OF THE PAC IN
SWAZILAND. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED TO SHABANGU THAT THIS WAS
NOT A FORMAL APPROACH BY USG, BUT AN INFORMAL PERSONAL DISCUSSION.
SHABANGU WAS MADE AWARE THAT THERE IS PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL
INTEREST IN THE SITUATION AND THAT STATE DEPT. WANTED TO
PRESENT AN ACCURATE CLEAR PICTURE OF EVENTS IN SWAZILAND.
EMBOFF ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT USG WAS IN NO WAY ATTEMPTING TO
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TELL GOS HOW TO HANDLE THE SITUATION, BUT THAT WE WERE CONCERNED
ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS AS WELL AS THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT
ON SWAZILAND IN WORLD OPINION.

2. SHABANGU REPLIED THAT HE WAS WILLING TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION
ON A PERSONAL, NON-ATTRIBUTABLE BASIS WITH THE REALIZATION THAT
HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR GOS. HE STATED THAT GOS WOULD RELEASE A

STATEMENT EITHER TODAY OR TOMMOROW.

3. SHABANGU STATED THAT THE WHOLE AFFAIR WAS BEING DIRECTED FROM LOBOMBA BY THE KING. THE REASON FOR THIS WAS A NEAR HORRENDOUS BLUNDER, THREE YEARS AGO BY THE EX-P.S. E. MAMBA IN DEPUTY PRIME OFFICE. AT THAT TIME A HIGH RANKING ANC OFFICIAL WAS UNDER DETENTION AND WAS TO BE FLOWN TO BOTSWANA. MAMBA DID NOT REALIZE THAT THE FLIGHT HAD A SEVERAL HOUR STOP IN RSA. WHEN THIS WAS REALIZED GOS MADE A FRANTIC EFFORT TO HALT THE DETAINEES' EXPLUSION AND WAS ABLE TO DO SO AT THE LAST SECOND, AFTER THE ANC OFFICIAL HAD ALREADY BEEN PUT ABOARD A PLANE. MAMBA WAS FIRED AND ALL SUCH CASES ARE NOW HANDLED AT LOBOMBA.

4. SHABANGU CONFIRMED THAT SWAZI CITIZENS HAD BEEN PICKED UP BUT HE COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY FIGURES. HE ESTIMATED THAT A MINIMUM OF 40 PEOPLE WILL BE DETAINED, ABOUT HALF OF WHICH WILL BE PAC MEMBERS. SHABANGU STATED THAT THE OTHERS HAD ABETTED THE P.A.C. EMBOFF QUESTIONED HIM FURTHER ABOUT THIS AND HE MODIFIED IT TO INCLUDE SYMPATHIZERS. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT GOS INTENTIONS FOR SWAZIS IN DETENTION, SHABANGU STATED THAT THIS HAD PROBABLY NOT BEEN THOUGHT THROUGH CLEARLY. HE GUESSED THAT GOS WOULD SIMPLY LEAVE THEM IN DETENTION AND RENEW THEIR DETENTION ORDERS EVERY 60 DAYS. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT HOW LONG THEY MIGHT BE LEFT IN DETENTION, SHABANGU GAVE PRINCE DUMISA DLAMINI AS AN EXAMPLE. DUMISA HAS BEEN IN DETENTION FOR NEARLY ONE YEAR AND GOS FEELS HE IS EMBITTERED AND WOULD BE EVEN MORE OF A THREAT THAN
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PREVIOUSLY IF RELEASED NOW. SHABANGU ALLUDED THAT THE DETAINEES MIGHT BE LEFT IN INDEFINITELY. HE COMMENTED THAT THE DETENTION ACT HAD OBVIOUSLY NOT BEEN DESIGNED WELL.

5. EMBOFF QUESTIONED SHABANGU ABOUT NON-SWAZI WIVES AND CHILDREN OF DETAINEES. SHABANGU AGREED THAT UNDER SWAZI LAW THE DEPENDENTS RESIDENCE PERMITS WERE CONTINGENT ON THE PRINCIPALS RESIDENCE PERMIT. THUS WHEN THE DETAINEES ARE EXPELLED, HE EXPECTED THEIR DEPENDENTS WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW. AS FOR SWAZI WIVES AND NON-SWAZI CHILDREN, HE STATED THAT GOS WOULD ALLOW WOMEN TO REMAIN AND REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN AS SWAZIS, AND REMAIN IN SWAZILAND.

6. SHABANGU PROVIDED ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON THE DECISION TO EXPEL PAC MEMBERS FROM SWAZILAND. HE STATED THAT JOE MKHWANAZI, LEADER OF PAC IN SWAZILAND HAD WRITTEN TO PAC LEADERSHIP IN TANZANIA AND STATED THAT HE WANTED TO OPEN A TRAINING CAMP IN SWAZILAND FOR PAC RECRUITS DUE TO EXPENSE AND DIFFICULTY OF MOVING RECRUITS TO TANZANIA FOR TRAINING. APPARENTLY PAC CENTRAL COMMITTEE DID NOT GIVE AUTHORIZATION. HOWEVER, MKHWANAZI BEGAN HAVING ARMS SMUGGLED IN AND STORED AT A FARM IN SOUTH-CENTRAL SWAZILAND AT MOOIHOEK. HE ALSO OPENED TRAINING CAMP IN INGWAVUMA FOR MNOGONEZULU CLANSMEN INVOLVED IN THE

TRIBAL DISPUTE IN THAT
AREA. GOS WAS WORRIED ABOUT ANTAGONIZING SAG AND POSSIBLE
RETALIATION RAID ACCROSS THE BORDER. GOS WROTE TO PAC CENTRAL
COMMITTEE ASKING THAT PAC MEMBERS IN SWAZILAND RESPONSIBLE
FOR THIS EITHER BE CONTROLLED OR REMOVED. APPARENTLY, LIBALO
AND SIBEKO COULD NOT CONTROL MKHWANAZI AND GAVE ASSENT FOR GOS
TO OUST PAC MEMBERS. GOS IS NOT REPEAT NOT OUSTING ALL PAC
MEMBERS NOR HAS THE ORGANIZATION ITSELF BEEN BANNED. COMMENT:
IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT GOS WILL CONTINUE TO ALLOW PAC TO MOVE
RECRUITS OUT OF SWAZILAND AND PERHAPS EVEN REBUILD ITS
ORGANIZATION. END COMMENT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MBABANE 1276

7. EMBOFF QUERIED SHABANGU ABOUT WHAT COUNTRY THE DETAINEES
WOULD BE EXPELLED TO. HE STATED THAT IT WAS UP TO UNHCR.
EMBOFF ASKED IF DETAINEES WOULD BE JAILED BY GOVERNMENT OF
TANZANIA (ON BEHALF OF PAC CENTRAL COMMITTEE) IF THEY WERE
EXPELLED THERE. SHABANGU STATED THAT HE THOUGHT IT VERY LIKELY.
HE COULD NOT OFFER ANY DEFINITE TIMETABLE FOR DEPORTATION,
BUT HE EXPECTED IT COULD BE A LONG TIME BEFORE
UNHCR WAS ABLE TO FIND A RECEIVING COUNTRY.

8. EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT CONDITION OF DR. ZWANE AND ANY POSSIBLE
CONNECTION BETWEEN HIS HUNGER STRIKE AND THE PAC DETENTIONS.

SHABANGU CONFIRMED ZWANE IS IN HOSPITAL BUT THAT HE (SHABANGU) KNEW LITTLE ELSE. EMBOFF POINTED OUT TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT TO GOS IF ZWANE SHOULD DIE IN PRISON. SHBABANGU REPLIED THAT ZWANE IS "A CLEVER POLITICIAN" AND THAT GOS DID NOT WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO ZWANE.
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9. COMMENT: SHABANGU STRESSED, INADVERTANTLY, THE TRIBAL CAUSE OF THIS AFFAIR. BECAUSE CHIEF NTUNZA MNGOMEZULU IS CLOSE TO THE KING, THE GOS HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO PUSH THE CHIEF AND HIS FOLLOWERS BACK INTO SOUTH AFRICA, WHERE THEY ORDINAIRLY RESIDED. THE MNGOMEZULU FUED GAVE PAC/SWAZILAND THE OPENING IT WAS LOOKING FOR AND IT TRIED TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION. PAC/SWAZILAND, IN ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION BROKE THE TWO STANDING RULES GOVERNING LIBERATION MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES IN SWAZILAND. (1) NO TRAINING OR RECRUITMENT OF SWAZIS (2) NO BASES OR CAMPS IN SWAZILAND.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT ANTAGONIZING SAG, THE SWAZIS DECIDED TO RESOTRE THE STATUS QUO. OPENLY ANTAGONIZING SOUTH AFRICA (WHICH SHABANGU STRESSED AS A MAJOR CONSIDERATION) AND INVITING A CROSS BORDER RAID, GOS DECIDED TO RESTORE THEIR "NEUTRAL" POSITION. THIS DECISION APPARENTLY COINCIDED WITH A PAC CENTRAL COMMITTEE WISH TO RESOTRE CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE OVER PAC/SWAZILAND. SHABANGU ORGINALLY STATED THAT GOS HAD ACTED AT PAC REQUEST, BUT HE LATER MODIFIED STATEMENT, TO PAC CENTRAL COMMITTEE "AGREED" WITH GOS PLANS.
PERLOW

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Message Attributes

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